

Knight, Mercedes

From: Knight, Mercedes
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 1:35 PM
To: 'grobertson@ap.org'
Cc: Hogle, Paul
Subject: Your Public Records Request #2017-05-01-01, Abortion Statistics

Dear Mr. Gary Robertson,

Thank you for your public records request. This email is to acknowledge the Department of Health and Human Services has received your request for:

Per our discussion, the AP is seeking public records from NC DHHS, as well as seeking direction to where some information (as required by state law) is on the department's websites. **Please consider this a preliminary request that I hope to narrow or expand, depending on what data is accessible.**

_ the AP is looking for annual statistical summary reports concerning the "medical and demographic characteristics of the abortions provided for" in G.S. 14-45.1. I want the reports to be disaggregated so that numbers are provided delineating how many abortions were performed after 16 weeks and how many abortions were performed after 20 weeks. I would certainly seek these reports from the last fiscal/calendar year but could ask for more years.

_ It is my understanding that starting Jan. 1, 2016 physicians must fill out "induced abortion case reports" when a later-term abortion (after 16 or 20 weeks) is performed. Those reports are confidential and "materials generated by the physician or provided by the physician to the Department of Health and Human Services" are not public records. Still, it is my belief that aggregate totals of how many such reports have been turned in are public records, as well as any other information that has been categorized by DHHS to determine whether physicians are following the law by actually turning in these forms and whether regulators believe these abortions comply with the law's restrictions when the procedure is performed after 16 weeks and after 20 weeks. Please let me know what information is available.

_ G.S. 14-45.1(a1) says DHHS "shall annually inspect any clinic, including ambulatory surgical facilities, where abortions are performed" and that DHHS shall publish on its website and on the state website "established under G.S. 90-21.84 the results and findings of all inspections conducted on or after January 1, 2013, of clinics, including ambulatory surgical facilities, where abortions are performed, including any statement of deficiencies and any notice of administrative action resulting from the inspection." Please tell me where this information is located online.

I can be reached at the contacts below. Let me know what I can do to facilitate the access to the public records and data. Thanks.

We're in the process of identifying what, if any, public records are responsive to your request, the location of those records, and assessing the resources required to fulfill your request. In the unlikely event we estimate there'll be any cost to you associated with fulfilling your request, we will contact you before assessing any charges. Additional information and the current cost schedule are available at http://www.ncdhhs.gov/control/pub_rec_charge.pdf.

Your request identification number is 2017-05-01-01. Please refer to this number when inquiring about the status of your request.

I'm copying my Public Records colleague Paul Hogle, as well as our service account on this email in the event you need immediate assistance and I'm unavailable.

NC DHHS is committed to responding to your request as promptly as possible. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or wish to amend your request.

Again, thank you for your public records request to NC DHHS.

Sincerely,

Mercedes L. Knight, J.D.

Legal Communications

Office of Communications, Public Records

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

919 855 4956 office

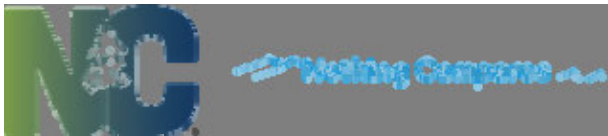
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